

**SECRET/SENSITIVE**

Executive Registry

74-2866

17 September 1974

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Attached is a recapitulation of the Congressional oversight of CIA activities as requested by Secretary Kissinger.

CIA's relations with Congress are on three levels:

- a. Where appropriate (although infrequently), CIA appears in open session or releases testimony given in executive session when it is neither classified nor revealing of intelligence sources and methods.
- b. In executive session, CIA appears before a variety of committees to provide substantive intelligence data and assessments. We use our most sensitive sources as the basis for such testimony, but we do not reveal or discuss them or our operations.
- c. Oversight of our operations is conducted by Appropriations and Armed Services Subcommittees in executive session. No matters are held secret from these committees, and it is my obligation to volunteer to them matters of possible interest.

The above arrangement is longstanding and has been subject to various attempts to change it over the years. In particular, the Foreign Affairs Committees have pressed for greater exposure to our operational activities.

In my confirmation hearings and publicly I have taken the position that CIA will respond to Congress' oversight in any method established

This document may be  
downgraded to Unclassified  
when enclosure is detached.

**SECRET/SENSITIVE**

R  
E  
F  
E  
R  
E  
N  
C  
E